Transfer of Telephones

868. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA:

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officials of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi were recently to be involved in transferring telephones on the basis of fake letters and this causing huge losses to MTNL; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some cases of irregular/shifting of telephones have come to notice.

(i) One such case of local irregular change of address of telephone which caused loss of Rs. 54.04 lacs of MTNL has been referred to CBI.

(ii) In another case, a telephone was found shifted on the basis of fake application but there was no loss to MTNL. Disciplinary action against the erring officials has been recommended.

(iii) By getting two telephones shifted illegally on fake documents and making authorised STD/ISD calls on these telephones came to notice of MTNL. Loss to MTNL caused in this case was Rs.21.32 lacs. To investigate involvement of MTNL officials, the case has been transferred to CBI and is under investigation.

[Translation]

Spying Activities by Foreign Nationals

869. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign national or an employee of a foreign embassy has been arrested while intruding into the restricted areas in the Ministry or for spying in the same manner during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Security procedures are reviewed from time to time and appropriate instructions are issued for safeguarding security of classified information/documents.

Statement

1. Mr. Daniel Masih, alies Peter Prakash, Pakistan national was apprehended on 19.8.1997 on charges of espionage. He had entered Restricted Area in the guise of white washer/MES contractor labourer. He was trained by Pak ISI in early 1993 and thereafter inducted across the border with specific instructions to target defence personnel and installations. He had been operating in India since Dec., 1993. Incriminating material including some classified documents relating to IAF were recovered from his possession. No code or passwords were compromised.

2. Mr. Noor Mohd Matto, a Pakistan National and an employee of Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi, was apprehended on 28 Sept, 1996 for spying in Delhi Cantt. which is, however, not a restricted area. He was trying to cultivate a Sepoy of an Infantry Battalion who was instructed to communicate vetted information which assisted in apprehension of the Pak National.

[English]

Indira Gandhi Nahar Project

870. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has asked for additional allocation of fund during 1997-98 for Indira Gandhi Nahar Project;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) the allocation of fund proposed to be made during 1997-98 for the project; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) Government of Rajasthan has indicated a total requirement of Rs.176 crores for the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project during 1997-98. Out of this Rs. 80 crores have been allocated in the State Plan, Rs.60 crores have been sanctioned by the Planning Commission as Central Assistance under Border Area Development Programme and Rs. 36 crores have been approved as Central Loan Assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

Prohibition of Smoking

871. SHRI VIJAY PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to implement the "prohibition of smoking" throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.